



## February 2021 Newsletter

### Fatal EO Accident in Quảng Trị Province

It is with heavy hearts PeaceTrees shares the news of a fatal EO accident that took place in Quảng Trị Province on February 16. Mr. Le Chi Truong, a resident of Phuong An 1 Village of Cam Nghia Commune, Cam Lo District, was killed by an 81mm mortar round while digging a drainage ditch in his home. Mr. Truong was a 42-year-old husband and father, and the primary earner for the household. PeaceTrees recently visited the family, offered a financial gift, and will be providing a scholarship to his 11-year-old daughter. We will be on the lookout for additional opportunities to support this family. This is the first accident in more than 4 years and is a sobering reminder of the importance of continuing mine action in Vietnam.

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### Updates from Vietnam

#### PeaceTrees Attends National Action Program in Hanoi

On February 17th PeaceTrees in-country staff attended a conference to review the National Mine Action Program (also known as Programme 504) in Hanoi. The conference reviewed progress in demining from 2010-2020 and set direction for a 2021-2025 demining plan. **Prior to Programme 504, 6.1 million hectares of land in Vietnam was contaminated with explosive remnants of war—close to 19% of the country's total. From 2010-2020, a total of 485,000 hectares of land was safely cleared by groups like PeaceTrees, MAG, and NPA.** The Prime Minister of Vietnam, Minh Chinh, spoke and committed to progress in mine action and urged other governments and international organizations to continue supporting demining efforts in Vietnam. Working with the support of both the US and Vietnamese government, PeaceTrees feels well positioned to continue our important work!



The Vietnamese Prime Minister Phạm Minh Chính learning more about PeaceTrees Vietnam

In-Country Director, Ha Pham, with the US Ambassador to Vietnam, Marc E. Knapper

## Vietnam Eases COVID Restrictions and Opens to Commercial Travel

[On February 15th Vietnam removed most COVID-19 restrictions from incoming international flights and is no longer limiting the number of flights into the country.](#) This is the first time these restrictions have eased since March 2020! We feel optimistic about the news and look forward to resuming citizen diplomacy travel when it feels right to do so. While we look ahead to potential travel for late 2022 and 2023, we invite you to email [info@peacetreesvietnam.org](mailto:info@peacetreesvietnam.org) to add or confirm that your name is on our list of interested travelers.

## Water Well Project Completed in Cu Ty Village

At the end of 2021 with the support from local governments and the Huynh Family, PeaceTrees Vietnam completed construction of a water well in Cu Ty Village located in Quảng Trị Province. PeaceTrees EOD teams conducted clearance of the water well site and found no EO in a 38 square meter area. After this search was conducted, a 2000-liter water tank was installed to store water being pulled from a depth of 60 meters. This well now provides clean and consistent water to 10 households in this remote village. Before this project families relied on collecting water from local rivers and streams—something that has become difficult with longer dry seasons and drought. Projects like this are increasingly important to PeaceTrees as we expand our focus on environment and resilience.



A resident of Cu Ty Village using the well water to cultivate crops

A woman in Cu Ty Village filling buckets with water from the new well

### Land Safely Cleared for Banana Plantations in Ta Lao Village

At the end of 2021 you learned about multiple flood recovery projects that PeaceTrees is supporting. One of these projects will help residents cultivate their own dwarf bananas for food and income. In January, PeaceTrees EO teams began clearing the sites for the future banana crops in Ta Lao Village in Quảng Trị Province! Now that the land has been safely cleared, 10 families whose livelihoods were impacted by the 2020 storms will receive banana seedlings, fertilizer, water pumps and technical training. We look forward to providing more updates as this project continues!



A pair of PeaceTrees EO technicians working to clear the future banana site in Ta Lao Village

An explosive remnant of war found and removed during clearance operations

## Wrapping Up the Tết Holiday

Whether you celebrated the new year in January or February, we hope that you and yours are finding joy in 2022! While many Lunar New Year celebrations took place virtually for a second year in a row, many in-person festivals and parades around the world made their return. Here's hoping spring brings continued health and good fortune for all!



Students at the Ta Leng Kindergarten holding up their lucky Tết envelopes

PeaceTrees staff and students at the newly rebuilt Jesse Griego/A Xing 2 Kindergarten celebrating Tết with lucky envelopes

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## Community Cleanup in Seattle's Little Saigon Neighborhood

[Friends of Little Saigon](#) (FLS) is a Seattle based non-profit whose mission is to preserve and enhance Little Saigon's cultural, economic, and historic vitality. FLS hosts monthly community clean-ups and provides volunteers the supplies and equipment needed. **Members of the PeaceTrees staff and board will be attending on Saturday, March 5th and we invite others in our community to join this monthly effort to support FLS!** [To learn more and register, click here.](#)

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## Volunteer with Helping Link

In our January Newsletter you heard from Minh Duc Nguyễn, Executive Director of [Helping Link](#), about the challenges the organization is facing. If you are interested in volunteering, there are multiple opportunities to support their important work (in-person and virtually)! [We invite you to visit their volunteer page and hope you consider plugging into an effort that feels meaningful to you.](#)

### Donate Your Used Vehicle to PeaceTrees

Make your tax-deductible gift to PeaceTrees by donating your unwanted vehicle! PeaceTrees has partnered with non-profit organization CARS to facilitate a vehicle donation program. All vehicles are eligible for donation –even if they are not running! This includes cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, farm equipment, and even airplanes!



### Is PeaceTrees your Amazon Smile beneficiary yet?

Amazon Smile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice. All you need to do is start your shopping!

#### Our Contact Information

\*{{Organization Name}}\*  
 \*{{Organization Address}}\*  
 \*{{Organization Phone}}\*  
 \*{{Organization Website}}\*  
 \*{{Unsubscribe}}\*



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